

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A lens barrel comprising:

a plurality of cylindrical bodies expandable in a multistage fashion;

5 a lens optical system constituted by a plurality of lens groups disposed along an optical axis, all of said plurality of lens groups being accommodated in a leading cylindrical body to be expanded among said plurality of cylindrical bodies; and

10 a driving source incorporated in said leading cylindrical body to be expanded;

wherein said lens optical system comprises at least one fixed lens group secured to said leading cylindrical body to be expanded and at least one movable lens group movable
15 along said optical axis upon receiving a driving force of said driving source.

2. A lens barrel according to claim 1, wherein said lens optical system comprises two fixed lens groups, said movable lens group being disposed between said fixed lens
20 groups.

3. A lens barrel according to claim 1, further comprising:

a movable lens frame having said movable lens group attached thereto;

25 a threaded shaft, in mesh with said movable lens frame, installed so as to orient in said optical axis of said plurality

